

INSTRUCTIONS
AND DEVOTIONS
FOR PERFORMING
THE NOVENA,
OR
THE NINE DAYS' DEVOTION
TO
ST. FRANCIS XAVIER.

TORONTO.
PUBLISHED BY MRS. JAMES DELANEY.
1894.

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AMERICAN

In the words Xavier and Xaverius the first letter is pronounced like Z, *Zavier, Zaverius*. We say, Francis *Xavier, Xaverius*, when it stands alone.

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THE NOVENA,
OR
THE NINE DAYS' DEVOTION
TO
ST. FRANCIS XAVIER.

Time and Manner of Performing the Novena.

This Novena commences on the 4th of March, and continues nine days, that is, till the 12th of March, upon which day, in the year 1622, Pope Gregory XV. canonized St. Francis Xavier. The persons who, perform this Novena are to be employed upon each of the days in prayer and good works, to the glory of Almighty God, and in honor of His servant St. Francis Xavier, always endeavoring to repose entire confidence in the merits of this Apostle, and hoping through his means to obtain from God

whatsoever they shall ask, provided it be conducive to their salvation and the good of souls ; or otherwise, that instead of that blessing which they beg, but which may not be for their benefit, the Saint will obtain for them of God some other grace which tends more to their eternal felicity.

For the exact performance of this Novena, they are to take for their advocates the nine choirs of heavenly spirits, making particular mention of the principal virtues of St. Francis Xavier, and also to observe other directions which shall be given hereafter. It would be well to confess and communicate the first day, so that the soul, being cleansed from sin, and honored with the Sacred Eucharist, all the works being performed in the state of grace, may be meritorious of eternal life, and more efficacious with God to obtain the benefit

we ask. Those who do not confess must, at least, begin the devotions each day by an act of contrition.

When this Novena is not performed in the church, it may be performed at home, all of the family joining in the prayers, and presenting to God their special needs in union with the general intention of the Novena.

For the convenience of such as require further directions, we shall set down the prayers proper to be said every day ; nevertheless, persons who practise meditation may beg the same thing of the Saint, in such terms and language as their devotion shall dictate, and they may direct their prayer as they think fit. When many together perform the Novena, one of them may read the prayers, changing the singular number into the plural, and saying *we*

desire, *we* beg, etc. The others may repeat the prayer after him, or else only hear it, with attention, inwardly desiring and begging for that which is asked in it.

*Instructions for the Exact Performance
of the Novena.*

Those who perform the Novena are to observe these instructions upon all and each of the nine days. First: They are to endeavor to imitate the Saint's virtues, by practising some exterior act or acts thereof, as, for instance, his zeal, humility, patience, etc. Secondly: They are to do some work of mercy, either spiritual or corporal, for the benefit of their neighbor, as giving alms, visiting the sick, or those who are in prison, comforting the afflicted, praying for the souls in Purgatory or for

those who are in the state of mortal sin, etc. Thirdly : They are to offer up in his honor some particular mortification, as fasting, wearing of haircloth, disciplining, using themselves with less tenderness, etc. Fourthly : They are to curb their senses, their eyes and ears, and their tongues, endeavoring to avoid all sin, even the least. Fifthly : They are to read some chapter or passage of the life of the Saint, or meditate a while upon one or other of his virtues, with an earnest desire to imitate his example. Sixthly : They are to endeavor, for the glory of God, to excite some person to bear devotion to the Saint. Seventhly : It is desirable that they every day invoke the intercession of one rank of the saints, as they do of the choir of angels, to the end that their advocates and intercessors being multiplied, as the Church

expresses it, they may the more readily obtain what they ask. The classes of saints may be divided into patriarchs, prophets, apostles, martyrs, bishops, doctors, priests, religious, confessors, virgins and other saints in heaven. For the more effectual prevailing with St. Francis Xavier, it will be proper every day to make a special commemoration of St. Ignatius of Loyola, whom St. Francis Xavier honored, respected and loved, as his father, master and superior.

Upon one of the nine days, the person performing this devotion must confess and communicate, having made a most diligent preparation in order to please God and St. Francis Xavier, and to obtain more readily the favor desired.

Such as cannot read may have another to read these prayers, they giving great

attention to them, and offering them up to St. Francis Xavier; or instead thereof, they may say ten times the Lord's Prayer, ten times the Hail Mary, and ten times Glory be to the Father, etc., in memory of the ten years that St. Francis Xavier spent in the Indies; begging of the Saint whatsoever they desire, and praying as he did for the conversion of infidels.

Though the proper time for performing this Novena be from the 4th till the 12th of March, which is the day of the canonization of St. Francis Xavier, yet it may be performed at any other time of the year.

How much this devotion daily spreads is well known; St. Francis obtained favors for several persons, as they themselves have testified. In the year 1688 it was performed at Madrid, with extraordinary solemnity, in the royal chapel of the palace,

their Catholic majesties being every day present.

THE FIRST DAY OF THE NOVENA.

The person performing this devotion, kneeling before the altar or the image of St. Francis Xavier, shall lift up his heart to God, profoundly humbling himself in spirit, and offering up all his prayers, thoughts and words to his glory, and in honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary, St. Francis Xavier and all the angels and saints in heaven ; he shall make the sign of the cross, and say the following prayer :

O LORD JESUS CHRIST! True God and Man, my Creator and Redeemer, for Thy sake alone, and because I love Thee above all things, I am sorry from the bottom of my heart for having offended Thee ; and I do firmly purpose never to fall into sin again, to shun all occasions of offending

Thee, to confess my sins, and perform the penance that shall be enjoined me, and to make restitution and satisfaction wherever it shall be due from me. For the love of Thee, I forgive my enemies ; to Thee I offer up my life, actions and sufferings, in satisfaction for my sins ; and since I humbly beg it of Thee, I trust in Thy goodness and infinite mercy, that Thou wilt forgive me through the merits of Thy precious blood and passion, and wilt give me grace to amend my life and to persevere in Thy service till my death. Amen.

Most gracious St. Francis Xavier ! Apostle of the Indies, if it be for the glory of God and to thy honor, that I obtain what I desire and beg, by performing this Novena, obtain for me this grace of our Lord ; if not, guide my petition, and beg of our Lord for me that which is most

conducive to His glory and the benefit of my soul.

O God, and Lord of the Angels; whom Thou dost entrust with the guardianship of men, I make thee an offering of all the merits of these heavenly spirits, and of those of thy servant, St. Francis Xavier, who was called an angel for his purity, and because he preserved men from many spiritual and corporal dangers. I beseech Thee, grant me that purity of soul and body which Thou didst confer on this Thy holy apostle, and that particular grace which I beg in this Novena, to Thy greater honor and glory. Amen.

Here say three times the Lord's Prayer and three times the Hail Mary, and then the following prayer to St. Francis Xavier:

MOST HOLY FATHER, St Francis Xavier!
who didst receive praises from the mouths

of innocent children, I most humbly implore thy bountiful charity for the sake of the most precious Blood of Jesus and the Immaculate Conception of our Blessed Lady, Mother of God, to the end that thou mayest obtain of God's infinite goodness that, at the approach of my last hour, my heart may be separated and withdrawn from all worldly thoughts and distractions and be fixed in the most ardent love of Him and a vehement desire of a happy eternity; so that, laying aside the multiplicity of earthly things which hitherto have perplexed me, I may most diligently seek and perfectly find that one thing which is necessary, namely, to die and rest in peace under the protection of the most holy Virgin Mary, in the wounds of Jesus, her Most Blessed Son, in the sweet embraces of my God, and in thy presence, holy Saint!

through whose intercession I hope to obtain this mercy. But yet, whilst it shall please the Divine Providence to preserve my life, I beseech thee, my most loving Protector and most affectionate Father, to obtain for me of His Divine Majesty, that I may live as I would wish to have lived at the hour of my death, ever imitating thy virtues and fulfilling the most holy will of God ; that so my temporal death may be to me a passage into life everlasting. I also beseech thee to obtain for me that which I ask in this Novena, if it be for the glory of God and the good of my soul. Amen.

In the next place, you are to ask of St. Francis Xavier the particular favor you desire to obtain, heightening as much as possible your confidence in him with such words as your affectionate thoughts shall suggest, or with such aspirations as your devotion shall dictate. Then the more to please this holy Apostle,

say that prayer which he himself composed and used to say every day for the conversion of infidels, which is as follows :

ETERNAL GOD ! Creator of all things, remember that Thou alone didst create the souls of infidels, framing them to Thy own image and likeness ; behold, O Lord ! Thy only Son Jesus Christ, who suffered for them, bountifully shedding His precious blood ; suffer not, O Lord ! Thy Son and our Lord to be any longer despised by infidels ; but rather, being appeased by the entreaties and prayers of Thy elect, the saints, and of the Church, the most blessed Spouse of Thy Son, vouchsafe to be mindful of Thy mercy, and forgetting their idolatry and infidelity, cause them also to know Him Thou didst send, Jesus Christ, Thy Son our Lord, Who is our Health, Life and Resurrection, through Whom we are

made free and saved, to Whom be all glory
for ever. Amen.

Then conclude with the prayer proper to the Saint.

Antiph. Well fare thee, good and faithful
Servant ; because thou hast been faithful
over a few things, I will place thee over
many things ; enter into the glory of the
Lord.

V. Our Lord hath guided the just man
by right ways.

R. And hath showed him the kingdom
of God.

THE PRAYER.

O GOD! who wert pleased to reduce to
the bosom of thy Church the nations of the
Indies, through the preaching and miracles
of St. Francis Xavier, mercifully grant us

that we may imitate his virtues, whose
glorious merits we hold in veneration.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE LITANY OF ST. FRANCIS XAVIER.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, hear us.

Christ, graciously hear us.

God the Father of Heaven, *Have mercy*
upon us.

God the Son, Redeemer of the world, *Have*
mercy upon us.

God the Holy Ghost, *Have mercy upon us.*

Holy Trinity one God, *Have mercy upon*
us.

Holy Mary, *Pray for us.*

Holy Father Ignatius, *Pray for us.*

St. Francis Xavier, most worthy son
of St. Ignatius,

St. Francis Xavier, apostle of the
Indies,

St. Francis Xavier, evangelizing
peace,

St. Francis Xavier, evangelizing all
good,

St. Francis, vessel of election,
carrying the name of Jesus
before the Gentiles,

St. Francis, vessel full of divine
grace,

St. Francis, firmament of the Orien-
tal Church,

St. Francis, defender of the faith,

St. Francis, enemy of infidelity,

St. Francis, preacher of evangelical
truth,

St. Francis, destroyer of idols,

Pray for us.

St.

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St. Francis, chosen instrument of the
 Eternal Father, for the propaga-
 tion of divine glory,
 St. Francis, faithful follower and
 companion of Jesus Christ,
 St. Francis, trumpet of the Holy
 Ghost,
 St. Francis, pillar of the Church of
 God,
 St. Francis, light of infidels,
 St. Francis, master of the faithful,
 St. Francis, mirror of true piety,
 St. Francis, guide in the way of
 virtue and perfection,
 St. Francis, pattern of apostolical
 spirit and sanctity,
 St. Francis, light of the blind,
 St. Francis, curer of the lame,
 St. Francis, helper of those that
 suffer shipwreck,

Pray for us.

Pray for us.

St. Francis, health of the sick,
St. Francis, protector in time of
plague, famine and war,
St. Francis, from whom the devils
fly,
St. Francis, life of the dead,
St. Francis, whose power the sea and
tempests obey,
St. Francis, whose command the sea
and all elements reverence,
St. Francis, wonderful worker of
miracles,
St. Francis, refuge of the miserable,
St. Francis, comforter of the afflicted,
St. Francis, splendor of the East,
St. Francis, tabernacle of incorrup-
tion,
St. Francis, treasure of divine love,
St. Francis, glory of the Society of
Jesus,

Pray for us.

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Xaverius, most pure,
 Xaverius, most chaste,
 Xaverius, most obedient,
 Xaverius, most humble,
 Xaverius, most desirous of the cross
 and labors of Christ,
 Xaverius, most zealous of God's glory
 and the good of souls,
 Xaverius, Angel in life and manners,
 Xaverius, Patriarch in affection and
 care of God's people,
 Xaverius, Prophet in gift and spirit,
 Xaverius, Apostle in dignity and
 merit,
 Xaverius, Doctor of Gentiles in all
 sorts of languages,
 Xaverius, Martyr in desiring to die
 for Christ,
 Xaverius, Confessor in virtue and
 profession of life,

Pray for us.

Pray for us.

Xaverius, Virgin in body and mind,
 Xaverius, in whom we reverence,
 through the divine goodness,
 the merits of all saints,

Pray for us.

Lamb of God, who takest away the sins of
 the world, *Spare us, O Lord.*

Lamb of God, who takest away the sins of
 the world, *Graciously hear us, O
 Lord.*

Lamb of God, who takest away the sins of
 the world, *Have mercy on us.*

Christ, hear us.

Christ, graciously hear us.

Lord, have mercy on us.

Our Father, etc.

V. Pray for us, St. Francis Xavier.

R. That we may be made worthy of the
 promises of Christ.

LET US PRAY.

LORD GOD! Who hast vouchsafed, by the preaching and miracles of St. Francis Xavier, to join unto Thy Church the countries of the Indies, grant propitiously, we beseech thee, that reverencing his glorious merits, we may also imitate his example. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE SECOND DAY.

Lord Jesus Christ, true God and Man, etc., *as before on the first day.*

Most glorious St. Francis Xavier, etc., *as the first day, and so on all the following days.*

A PRAYER FOR THIS DAY.

LORD GOD of the Archangels! whom Thou dost entrust with the most weighty concerns of Thy glory and the benefit of men, I offer up to Thee the merits of these most diligent spirits and those of Thy great servant St. Francis Xavier, whom Thou didst constitute the minister of Thy glory, and to whom Thou didst recommend the spiritual welfare of innumerable souls. I beseech Thee, grant that I may perform those duties which Thy most holy and divine will hath imposed upon me, and also that I may obtain that particular grace which I beg of Thee in this Novena, to Thy greater honor and glory. Amen.

 THE THIRD DAY.

LORD GOD of the Principalities! Who, according to the disposition of Thy divine

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will, by means of angels and archangels, dost take care of the welfare of mankind, enlightening, instructing and governing them, I offer up to Thee the merits of those most zealous spirits and those of Thy servant St. Francis Xavier, who enlightened and converted many kingdoms and provinces, and in them innumerable souls, not only by himself, but by his disciples and followers, instructing, teaching and commanding. I beseech Thee, grant me the zeal of this holy apostle, and the petition I present in this Novena to Thy honor and glory. Amen.

THE FOURTH DAY.

LORD GOD of the Powers! who have a special prerogative to curb the infernal spirits, I offer to Thee the merits of those

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most potent spirits, and those of Thy servant St. Francis Xavier, to whom Thou gavest singular power of expelling devils from bodies and souls. I beseech thee, grant me the grace to overcome all the temptations of the devil, and to obtain that which I beg of Thee in this Novena, to Thy greater honor and glory. Amen.

THE FIFTH DAY.

LORD GOD of the Virtues! by whose means Thou workest miracles and prodigies peculiar to Thy sovereign power, I offer up to Thee the merits of those most stupendous spirits, and those of Thy servant St. Francis Xavier, whom Thou madest a new Thaumaturgus, or worker of prodigious

miracles, renewing in him the signs and wonders of the blessed apostles, that he might discover the Gospel to new nations. I beseech Thee, grant me that profound humility wherewith St. Francis Xavier, amidst so many miracles, sought Thy glory, not his own honor; grant me also the favor which I beg in this Novena, to Thy greater honor and glory. Amen.

THE SIXTH DAY.

LORD GOD of the Dominations! who preside over all inferior spirits as ministers of Thy providence, and submit themselves to Thy will, being ever ready to fulfill it, I offer up to Thee the merits of these excellent spirits and those of St. Francis

Xavier, who, though superior to many, yet humbly submitted himself to all superiors, in them acknowledging Thy majesty, and readily fulfilling their commands. I beseech Thee, grant me a ready and perfect obedience to all my superiors, and that special petition which I make in this Novena, to Thy greater honor and glory. Amen.

THE SEVENTH DAY.

LORD GOD of the Thrones ! on whom Thou reposest as on the seat of Thy glory and throne of Thy majesty, I offer up to Thee the merits of these supreme spirits and those of St. Francis Xavier, that throne of Thy glory, that vessel of election, to convey Thy name to new nations, who denied himself to himself and to all worldly things,

casting them out of his heart, that Thou alone might possess it. I beseech Thee, grant that I may despise all worldly things, and rest in Thee alone ; grant me also the petition I make in this Novena, to Thy greater honor and glory. Amen.

THE EIGHTH DAY.

LORD GOD of the Cherubim ! who are adorned with most perfect wisdom, I offer up to Thee the merits of these most intelligent spirits, and those of Thy servant St. Francis Xavier, whom Thou didst grace with supereminent wisdom, and to whom Thou didst reveal most profound secrets that he might teach Thy law to many people and nations. I beseech Thee, grant

that I may learn to fear and please Thee, which is true wisdom ; and that by word and example I may teach others to keep Thy commandments. Grant me also the favor I beg in this Novena, to Thy greater honor and glory. Amen.

THE NINTH DAY.

LORD GOD of the Seraphim ! who are inflamed with the most ardent love of Thee, I offer up to Thee the merits of these most fervent spirits, and those of Thy servant St. Francis Xavier, who, like a Seraph, was inflamed with Thy love, conquering innumerable hardships and dangers to please Thee, and to make those love and know Thee who before offended

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Thee and knew Thee not. I beseech Thee grant that I may love Thee, my only God and Lord, and endeavor to bring all men to the knowledge and love of Thee, and also that Thou wilt grant me that which I ask in this Novena, to Thy greater honor and glory. Amen.